

2010 Congressional Art Competition Guidelines

General Guidelines

- The competition is open to high school students ONLY; grades 9 through 12.
- In order to allow artwork to hang in the Capitol the following restrictions are enforced:
 - All artwork must be framed according to appropriate framing guidelines:
 - Artwork must be two dimensional ONLY
 - Each piece can be **no larger** than 28" x 28" x 4" (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) **including the frame**. Artwork cannot weigh more than 15 pounds.
 - Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution, and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the **entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to the students earlier. Students should, therefore, submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.
- Artwork accepted mediums are as follows:
 - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
 - Drawings: pastels, colored pencils, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers
 - Collage: must be two dimensional
 - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
 - Mixed media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
 - Computer-generated art
 - Photography
- A **TYPED** and securely affixed large label must be applied to the back of each piece (see sample below).

Student Name, Address, and Phone Number

Title of Artwork

Medium Used

Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper

Pennsylvania 3rd Congressional District

- A **TYPED** copy of the Student Release form, signed by both the teacher and the student (and a parent/guardian if the student is under 18 years of age), must be attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece.
- The final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2010 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

Framing Guidelines

- **All artwork must be framed.** Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended. No "snap-on" frames with glass are to be used.
- All artwork must be protected by Plexiglass or glass. Plexiglass is preferred. If glass is used, special packaging and shipping arrangements are encouraged to ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass breaks.
- All works, **including the frame**, should be **no larger** than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the inside of the frame, and no more than 15 pounds in weight. Please double check the size before submitting any artwork.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art, and should be carefully prepared.
- Use sturdy picture hangers on the back of the frame. Two sturdy eye hooks should be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the work, for hanging, in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Do not put wire between the hooks for hanging; these will be added when the artwork is hung in the Capitol.
- Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglass.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is "up" with arrows.